



## OCEAN CITY DOG PARK "PAW-PASS" ACCESS CARD INFORMATION & APPLICATION FORM

### Application Requirements:

Completion of the application form with the required license and vaccination information listed. All dogs are required to have and submit a copy of **both** a current dog license issued by a municipality and a current rabies vaccination certificate from a licensed veterinarian. Additionally, each applicant is required to have thoroughly **read** the "Rules & Regulations" and then sign the "Acceptance of Risk & Release of Liability Waiver Form". We ask that you thoroughly read the entire document. Unfortunately, when referenced at a later date or after an incident at the Park many members are not familiar with the contents.

### "Paw-Pass" Access Cards:

The access cards will allow you to gain entry to all areas of the Dog Park during the scheduled hours of operation. The access pass issued will allow unlimited usage of the Ocean City Dog Park located in Ocean City from 8:00 A.M. to dusk, seven (7) days a week, weather and conditions permitting. **Please note that access cards are non-transferable between owners.**

### User Fees:

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 the City established the following fees for the acquisition of an access card. All revenue generated from the "Paw-Pass" fee will be utilized for park improvements, general site maintenance and annual operating expenses. **Cards will expire one (1) year from the date of issuance.**

- Cape May County Resident/ Homeowner Annual Access Fee - **\$30.00**
- Non-Resident of the County Annual Access Fee - **\$40.00**
- Weekly Access Pass Fee - **\$10.00** (**Note:** this "Paw-Pass" is intended for those individuals that wish to utilize the Park for a one-week or limited duration only.)
- Replacement Access Card - **\$5.00**

### Payment:

Payments shall only be in the form of cash, check or money order and be **made payable** to **The City of Ocean City**. All fees are **non-refundable**. **The "Paw-Pass" access cards are reusable and we ask that the card holders to recycle them once expired in the boxes at the park. Please do not write on the access cards.**

### Applications & Filing for a Pass:

Applications and passes may be obtained

- City Hall Front Desk, located in City Hall at 861 Asbury Avenue, the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Entrance, Monday-Friday (with the exception of municipal holidays) from 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
- The Aquatic Fitness Center located at 1735 Simpson Avenue, Monday – Friday, 6:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M., Saturday and Sunday 7:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
- 46<sup>TH</sup> Street and West Avenue Seasonal Hours



# OCEAN CITY DOG PARK ACCESS CARD "PAW-PASS" APPLICATION FORM



Assigned Access Card # \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL (\$30.00)  
County Homeowner Pass

ANNUAL(\$40.00)  
Non-County Resident Pass

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / (\$10.00)  
Weekly Access Pass

Name of Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Dog # 1

Name of Dog: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: lbs. \_\_\_\_\_

Color(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Spayed/Neutered: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

License #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Rabies #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Municipality that the License was issued from: \_\_\_\_\_

## Dog # 2 (If Applicable)

Name of Dog: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: lbs. \_\_\_\_\_

Color(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Spayed/Neutered: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

License #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Rabies #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Municipality that the License was issued from: \_\_\_\_\_

**(FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)**

FEE PAID: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DATE ISSUED: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 2026  
CHECK #: \_\_\_\_\_ INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_



## **ACCEPTANCE OF RISK & RELEASE OF LIABILITY WAIVER FORM**

**Acceptance of Risk and Release of Liability Waiver: Acceptance of the terms and conditions of this release and adherence to the established Dog Park Regulations are conditions of the “Paw-Pass” approval, retention and renewal. Passes are non-transferable between owners and may be revoked for non-compliance as may be required by the City.**

I do hereby acknowledge and accept that I have voluntarily applied to participate and utilize, with my dog(s), the Cape May County Dog Park located in The City of Ocean City, NJ. I fully understand and acknowledge that unleashing my dog and being physically present at the dog park area involves risks of injury to me, any individual accompanying me, other persons, my dog(s) and other dog(s), including but not limited to, risks resulting from aggressive dogs, unpredictable behavior and lack of proper training. I further understand and assume that despite the efforts of The City of Ocean City to ensure owners have complied, there is a risk that not all dogs present in the dog park are licensed and vaccinated for rabies as may be required, which could result in injury to a person or a dog. Additional risks include, but are not limited to: dog fights; dog bites; theft or unlawful capture; escape over and under the fences; through an open gate; vegetation or standing water that may be unhealthy or poisonous if consumed; burrs or seeds that may become lodged in the dog’s coat, feet, eyes, nose, or ears; mosquitoes; spiders; ticks; chiggers; fleas and other insects; and wildlife typically found in and around the park, such as foxes; deer; raccoons; opossums; muskrats; field mice; turtles, etc... It is further my understanding that usage of the dog park is self-directed and shall not be directly supervised by an agent or employee of the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority (CMCMUA) or The City of Ocean City. Additionally, I accept and acknowledge that I assume any and all risks associated with the usage of the dog park, including fixtures and equipment, in an unsupervised and self-directed manner.

By accepting the prescribed terms and conditions and signing this release, I do hereby agree to indemnify and save harmless the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority (CMCMUA) and The City of Ocean City, its agents, officers, and employees and assigns from and against all loss, cost, damages, expense and liability resulting from my use of the dog park, including death, sickness, injury, and disease to any person or dog, or destruction to property, real or personal, arising directly from my use of the dog park. I do hereby acknowledge that I have carefully read this release of liability, and fully understand, agree with, and accept the terms and conditions that have been outlined above and in the attached literature. Further, I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed a copy of the Dog Park Rules and Regulations for the dog park’s use and agree to abide by said rules as set forth.

I accept and acknowledge personal responsibility and liability for any injury or damage caused as a result of the wrongful or aggressive behavior of my dog, whether the loss occurs as a result of biting, jumping, running, scratching, digging, charging or any other behavior.

I do hereby waive any and all rights that I may have to institute legal proceedings to recover cost of any kind. I have carefully read this release of liability, and fully understand, agree with, and accept its terms and conditions as outlined. I hereby do certify that I am over the age of twenty-one (21) years, sober and of sound mind. I have received and reviewed a copy of the Dog Park Rules & Regulations for the dog park’s use and agree to abide by these rules as listed. Further, I understand that all fees paid are non-refundable and that my “Paw-Pass” access card may be revoked by the City for misuse of the Park; failure to abide by the stated rules and regulations or repeated aggression on the part of any one of the dogs under my direct ownership or supervision.

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 2026



## OCEAN CITY DOG PARK

45<sup>th</sup> Street & Haven Avenue  
Ocean City, NJ

### **RULES & REGULATIONS FOR PARK USE**

#### **PARK HOURS OF OPERATION: 6:00 AM – DUSK, WEATHER & CONDITIONS PERMITTING**

Please, utilize the Dog Park in a responsible manner at all times! All dogs utilizing the park must be registered with the City, prior to use. If violations are detected, your park privileges may be suspended or revoked. Further, you may subject yourself to fine and prosecution. **PLEASE NOTE THAT PASSES ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE BETWEEN OWNERS.**

- The owner of any dog assumes all liability for damages suffered by anyone who is bitten or injured by your dog while utilizing the park or any dog that you may have allowed to access the park with your paw-pass.
- Please remove leashes in the designated “Unleash Area” only.
- Dogs must be supervised at all times by persons eighteen (18) years or older.
- No unattended dogs are permitted in the park at any time. Abandoning animals is prohibited by law.
- No more than two (2) dogs are permitted per person at one time in the park.
- Accompany and monitor your dog’s actions closely at all times. Always have a leash ready and available for use as may be required.
- No children, under the age of eighteen (18) years are permitted in the park, unless they are accompanied by an adult.
- Please clean up after yourself and your dogs. Pooper Scooper bags are available in the park.
- Aggressive dogs are prohibited from utilizing the park. Reported cases will result in the loss of park privileges.
- Dogs that are in heat or that are sick are prohibited from entering the park.
- All dogs must be licensed & properly immunized. The use of heartworm and tick prevention products is highly recommended. Puppies over six (6) months of age must have full immunizations to utilize the park.
- Puppies under the age of six (6) months are not permitted in the park.
- No prong (pinch), choke or spiked collars are permitted in the park.
- Please discourage your dogs from digging any holes to help us keep the park safe.
- No smoking, alcohol, food or glass containers are permitted in the Park.
- Professional dog trainers are not permitted to use this facility for training purposes without written permission from the City.

## DOG PARK ETIQUETTE FOR DOG OWNERS & VISITORS

Once you and your dog enter the dog park, it's tempting to just stand back and watch all the activity. But everybody will have a much more rewarding time, if you observe some basic rules. Please remember that dog parks aren't a right, they're a privilege. Don't let the bad behavior of a few ruin things both now and in the future.

- Always keep your eye on your dog. Mischief can happen quickly. Please remember that you are responsible for your dog's actions and behavior!
- Never leave your dog unattended. Always be aware of what is going on in the Park around you.
- Always clean up after your dog. "Pooper Scooper" bags have been provided. Please utilize them as may be required. This is the primary reason that dog parks get complaints nationwide, so please pay close attention to your dog and properly **pick up and dispose of their waste** before leaving the facility.
- Please make sure your dog is current on all immunizations including but not limited to Rabies vaccinations and has a valid municipal dog license.
- Don't bring dogs younger than six (6) months old to the dog park. They have not had all of the necessary inoculations that allow them to play safely with other animals in the Park.
- Don't bring a female dog in season into the Park. Spayed/neutered animals are recommended.
- Don't bring more than two (2) dogs at a time to the Park. More than two (2) will subject the Park to overuse and you will have a more difficult time monitoring your dogs as they play throughout the Park.
- Keep your dog on-leash until you get to the designated off-leash areas. This is not just respectful to other park users; it's much safer for you and your dog.
- If your dog becomes unruly or plays too roughly, please leash them and leave the Park immediately, until such time that your dog is back under control and has settled down.
- If you must bring children eighteen (18) years or younger, please be sure to supervise them closely. They are not permitted to run around the Park unsupervised.
- **Please do not smoke or eat while in the Park.** Cigarette butts and food wrappers are tempting treats to visiting dogs, local wildlife and insects.
- Bringing unregistered dogs to the Park is strictly prohibited and may subject you to both the loss of your pass and possible fine.
- Please remember that if you permit an unregistered dog to enter the Park under your pass, you have now accepted full responsibility and liability for that dog's actions.
- **A maximum of three (3) dogs are permitted in the Dog Run area at one time.**

### How to Enter & Exit the Dog Park

The Ocean City Dog Park is divided into three (3) separate fenced-in areas, providing maximum safety for your dog. When entering and exiting the designated areas please remember to close the gates securely behind you and your dog. Open or tied back gates defeat the purpose of the security provided by the fenced-in areas. Please note that the outer gates are electronic and the use of the access swipe card will be required for both entering & exiting these areas.

You enter and exit each of the areas through the double-gated vestibules. The vestibules are designed with two (2) gates to provide maximum control over your dog and other dogs as you enter and leave the fenced-in areas. If someone is ahead of you, please wait your turn before entering this area. **Please note that an access pass is required to both Enter and Exit the park.** The gates have magnetic locks that will secure the gate in a locked position once you have passed through. If you become locked in the park, press the emergency exit button or call and ask the Ocean City Police Department for assistance (609) 399-9111.

Opening only one gate at a time makes the vestibules a kind of "dog lock", sort of like an airlock on a spacecraft. After closing the outer gate, you should remove your dog's leash and remain in the vestibule while you observe the behavior of dogs already in the off-leash area. If the behavior is friendly, carefully open the inner gate and enter; if your dog's behavior is unfriendly, put the leash back on your dog and go to the vestibule of another area that might be less congested.

## **DOG PARK ETIQUETTE FOR DOG OWNERS & VISITORS (CONTINUED)**

The dog park fencing contains two (2) service gates located at the rear of the park. These gates provide access for the City's maintenance and landscape crews. They are **not** intended for use by park members and are to be kept locked unless in use by authorized personnel. If you find an unlocked maintenance gate, **Please notify the City as soon as possible @ (609) 399-6111 during normal business hours (Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM, legal holidays excluded)**. Please don't enter the fenced-in or the off-leash areas through the rear service/emergency gates. These gates do not provide the control that you need to have over the dogs while entering or exiting the park. Additionally, dogs already in the off-leash area, including dogs that might be unfriendly toward your dog, might escape as you enter the park through these unauthorized service gates.

### **Additional Information on How to Enter the Dog Park**

- Before opening the outer gate, please check to be sure that the inner gate is properly closed and that no other dogs are in this area.
- Open the outer gate with your swipe access card ('Paw Pass') and enter the vestibule with your dog on-leash.
- Close the outer main gate behind you and be sure that it is properly secured.
- Remove your dog's leash. Having your dog on a leash when confronting an off-leash dog can be a recipe for trouble - your dog may feel vulnerable and fearful, as well as the need to protect you. Tugging on the leash puts your dog at a disadvantage with other dogs. It is restrained but placed in a chest-out, raised-up aggressive pose that can cause the off-leash dog to feel threatened by the overall situation.
- Before you open the inner gate, check to be sure that the inner gate area is not congested with excited dogs waiting to pounce on your pup or trying to get out as you enter.
- Pay close attention to the receptions from the dogs already inside the park area – is it favorable or not? If the dogs already inside aren't friendly, put the leash back on your dog and go to the vestibule of another area that may be open or not as congested at that time.
- Open the inner gate. Enter the off-leash area with your dog.
- Close the inner gate properly behind you and move your dog away from the entrance area.

### **Additional Information on How to Exit the Dog Park**

- Before you open the inner gate, please check to be sure that the outer gate is properly closed and that any other dogs aren't trying to leave with you.
- Open the inner gate and enter the vestibule with your dog.
- Close the inner gate properly behind you and ensure that the latch is in the downward position.
- Put the leash securely on your dog.
- Open the outer gate with your swipe card and exit from the vestibule with your dog. Please note that you must utilize your swipe card to exit the Park. Unfortunately, some individuals have been locked in the Park due to fact that another individual permitted them access and had already exited the facility. If you become locked in the Park, If you become locked in the park, press the emergency exit button or call and ask the Ocean City Police Department for assistance (609) 399-9111. Close the outer gate behind you and please be sure that it is properly secured. The latch is electronic and should lock on its own, once it has been closed.

**[www.ocnj.us](http://www.ocnj.us)**

### **CITY EMERGENCY TELEPHONE #**

**Ocean City Animal Control (609) 398-4500  
&  
Ocean City Police Department (609) 399-9111**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q - Where is the park located in the City?**

A - The Dog Park is located at 45<sup>th</sup> Street & Haven Avenue. When heading southbound on West Avenue, make a right-hand turn onto 45<sup>th</sup> Street and precede approximately ¼ of a block until you see the Dog Park sign on your right-hand side. The Park's parking lot is located on your right-hand side. Handicap parking is available onsite. Signs have also been placed on West Avenue in both directions denoting the location of the park.

**Q - Is the Dog Park open & who can utilize the facility?**

A - Yes, the Park officially opened in October 2006. Access cards ("Paw-Passes") are currently available to any individual who submits the following:

- A completed "Paw-Pass" Application Form
- Proof of a municipal dog license. Please note that the license does not have to be issued from the City of Ocean City, but from the location of the dog's main year-round residence.
- Proof of up to date immunizations including but not limited to Rabies vaccinations.
- Signed Release of Liability & Waiver Form
- Receipt of one (1) of the following fees:
  - Cape May County Residents - **\$30.00**
  - Non-Cape May County Residents - **\$40.00**
  - Short Term Users (Weekly) - **\$10.00** (**Note:** this pass is intended for those individuals who wish to utilize the Park for a one-week or limited duration only.)

**Q – What are the hours of operation of the Dog Park?**

A – The Park is open from 8:00 A.M. – Dusk, seven (7) days a week, weather and conditions permitting. On occasion the Park may be closed for short durations for maintenance related issues.

**Q – Who is currently processing the applications for the access cards ("Paw-Pass") application forms?**

A – All inquiry calls should be directed to the City Hall Front desk located in City Hall at 861 Asbury Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Main Entrance, Telephone # (609) 399-6111, between the hours of 9:00 AM & 4:00 P.M., Monday - Friday.

- **City Hall at 861 Asbury Avenue, the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Entrance, Monday-Friday (with the exception of municipal holidays) from 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.,**
- **The Aquatic Fitness Center located at 1735 Simpson Avenue, Monday – Friday, 6:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M., Saturday and Sunday 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**
- **46<sup>TH</sup> Street and West Avenue Seasonal Hours**

**Q - How is the Park structured & setup for use?**

A - The park is broken down into three (3) distinctly separate fenced in areas as follows:

- Large Dog Area
- Small Dog Area
- Dog Run Area

Additionally, there are three (3) separate entrance/exit areas. This provides a safe area for you to remove or put on your leash before entering and/or leaving the park. When registering your dog, you will be given access to all areas in the Park.

Currently, all dogs are permitted in all areas of the park. Owners are cautioned that they should utilize good judgment in determining which area is most appropriate for their dog. While signage has been posted differentiating the large & small dog areas, owners are once again cautioned to select the area that best meets their dog's needs. It is our recommendation that each owner should thoroughly evaluate the sizes and breeds of the dogs that are in a specific area and make a judgment call as to which area will best meet their needs on that given day.

**Q - What facilities are available at the Park for both the owners & the dogs?**

A - As described above, there are three (3) separate fenced-in areas for the dogs to run off-leash. Additionally, the following facilities are currently available:

- Shared covered pavilions with a picnic table in each of the two (2) main areas
- Water fountains for both the dogs & owners
- Hose bibs & hoses (seasonally)
- "Pooper-Scooper" dispensers & disposable bags
- Trash & recycling waste containers
- Sitting benches located throughout the Park
- Designated handicap parking area
- Designated off-street parking lot
- Information sign boards in the two (2) main areas
- Interactive items in the main park areas
- Electronic locking security access gates
- Port-a-Potty (handicap accessible)

**Q - Are there any future plans to add additional interactive items to the Park?**

A - Yes, there are continued plans to replace and add additional interactive items to the site. Through the receipt of both Park user fees and annual donations, it is the City's plan to add to the site in the coming years. If you wish to make a donation to this endeavor, please email [recreation@ocnj.us](mailto:recreation@ocnj.us) or call 609 525-9304

**Q – Are the "Paw-Passes" transferable between different dog owners?**

A – **NO**, passes are **not transferable** between owners! Each dog must be registered and each owner is required to complete the "Paw-Pass Application Form" and to sign the "Acceptance of Risk & Release of Liability Waiver Form". Additionally, by signing the Release & Risk of Liability Waiver Form, each applicant is assuming the risk and liability for the dogs that they have registered. By allowing other dogs to enter the Park with your pass, you have now assumed full liability for those dogs and have breached our contractual agreement for use of the Park. Further, we have tried diligently to ensure that every dog utilizing the Park has been properly vaccinated and has passed an initial screening process. Your failure to adhere to these basic rules could jeopardize your ability to utilize the Park in the future, as well as the Park itself.